

# Diversity Calendar

## September 2023

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation  
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### September 4th North America Labour Day

Statutory holiday celebrating and honouring the contributions labourers have made to U.S. and Canada.

### September 5-6th Hindu Krishna Jayanthi

This day celebrates the birth of the Hindu God, Krishna for love and compassion and the 8th avatar of Lord Vishnu. The day is celebrated by fasting, preparing elaborates feast, singing and attending night vigil at the Krishna temple.

### September 11th Jain Paryushana Parvarambha

As one of the most holy days for the Jains, 10 days is observed through fasting, extended prayers and deepening of religious understanding by reading their holy scripture. It is a time for spirituality, learning and asking for forgiveness.

### September 11th Ethiopia New Year

New Year in Ethiopia. This is a big celebration for Ethiopians around the world. As well as celebrating a new year, Ethiopians also commemorate the return of Queen Sheba from Jerusalem. Customs include Church services, preparation of a special bread and stew, and donning new clothes.

### September 14th Orthodox Elevation of the Life Giving Cross

Celebrating the finding and recovery of the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Customs include a holy day of fasting, followed by an after-fast meal.

### September 15 - 17th Jewish Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year. A two day celebration, starting at sundown and ending at sundown on the 27th, that commemorates the creation of Adam and Eve. Customs include sounding the Shofar, praying at the Synagogue and festive meals.

### September 18th Hindu Ganesh Chaturthi

A ten day festival celebrated in Gujrat and other parts of India to worship the Hindu God Ganesh, who brings happiness, peace and prosperity. Some of the traditions include preparing the home temple with Ganesh present and offering sweet deserts to him.

### September 21st Pagan Autumnal Equinox

Welcoming the fall season, the Pagans call this festival Mabon after the God of Welsh mythology. Mabon is the Child of Light and the son of the Earth Mother Goddess.

### September 24 - 25th Jewish Yom Kippur

This is one the holiest days in the Jewish calendar, known as the Day of Atonement (the day Moses came down from Mount Sinai). Most Jews observing this day will refrain from work. The day is spent in prayer for forgiveness, fasting, blowing of the Shofar to mark the end of Yom Kippur. Greet someone you know by saying "g'mar chatima tovah".

# September

Hispanic Heritage Month - This month recognizes the Mexican revolution in 1810, which led to Mexico's independence from the Spanish dictatorship.

## September 26 - 27th Islamic Mawlid Al-Nabi

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Many Muslims around the world, celebrate Prophet Mohammed's (Peace Be Upon Him) birthday. It is celebrated by offering prayer, humble feasts and charitable giving.

## September 27th Ethiopia Meskel

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Commemorating the finding of the Cross by St. Helena, Ethiopians celebrate this day as one of the most important feasts of the year. Customs include burning of the Demera, street parties, followed by food and festivities.

## September 29th Anglican Michaelmas

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Known as the Feast of Archangels to commemorate Archangel Michael defeating Satan. Customs include outdoor activities such as horseracing, games and sports with families and friends. Goose is one of the many traditional foods, as well as baking special breads.

## September 29th - October 6th Jewish Sukkot

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This holiday commemorates the long journey Jews began to the Promised Land, under the tough desert conditions. Observers will often refrain from working on the first two days and sleep in a sukkah, exposing themselves to the elements that God once sheltered their ancestors from.

## September 30th Turtle Island/Canada National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

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A day to honour the lives of the children who never came home from residential schools, those left behind and survivors who carry tragic histories.

### **About the Calendar**

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for September 2023. There may be some celebrations that have not been included in this calendar and customs may vary. If you would like Afsana to add a special holiday or vary the customs, please email [afsana@gcmediation.com](mailto:afsana@gcmediation.com).

This calendar was produced by, Gibson Chowdhury – Clear Collaborative Mediation, through careful research and references to various sources and materials.

### **About Afsana**

Afsana is a lawyer and Qualified Mediator and founder of 'Gibson Chowdhury', a Toronto-based mediation boutique, specializing in race discrimination, civil and commercial disputes. Afsana is an Adjudicator at the Property Standards Committee for the City of Toronto. She is a past Chair of the OBA's ADR Section Executive board where she co-chaired a groundbreaking report as part of an OBA Working Group called "Neutral Diversity in Ontario". She has written several CLE programs on Equity Diversity and Inclusion and intercultural communications. She is a member of the International Academy of Mediators' DEI committee where she continues to build helpful tools for lawyers and mediators to help break down gender and racial barriers. Afsana is often asked to attend speaking engagements globally to present on issues concerning dispute resolution and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in ADR. Afsana is the recipient of the ADR Institute of Ontario, Star Award.

Afsana is a British-born national and daughter of British Muslim Immigrant parents from Bangladesh. She is now a Canadian immigrant where she enjoys the company of her husband and three children, living in the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, also known as Toronto.

To book a mediation, contact Afsana at [afsana@gcmediation.com](mailto:afsana@gcmediation.com) or via her online calendar <https://gcmediation.com/calendar-and-fees/>